

REMARKS

This Response is in reply to the Office Action rejection mailed September 28, 2006.

Claims 1-48 are pending in the application with claims 1, 2, 4, 16-19, 23-25, 27, and 43 being rejected, and claims 3, 5-15, 20-22, 26, 28-42, and 44-48 being objected to.

Independent claim 1 was amended to include the subject matter of objected claim 12. Therefore, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10 and 13-15 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 16 was amended to include the subject matter of objected to claim 21 and intermediate claim 19. Therefore, claim 16 and dependent claims 17-18, 20 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 23 was amended to include the subject matter of objected to claim 35. Therefore, claim 23 and dependent claims 24-34 and 36-42 are in condition for allowance.


Independent claim 43 was amended to include the subject matter of objected to claim 46. Therefore, claim 43 and dependent claims 44-45 and 47-48 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 11, 12, 19, 21, and 35 were canceled without prejudice. Claims 13, 20, and 22 were amended to correct the dependency of each of these claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain unresolved, the Applicants' attorney requests a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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